

This is in reply to the Office Action of June 21, 2001. Applicant, as noted above, petitions for a three-month extension.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, amend the first paragraph to read:

--The present application is a continuation-in-part application of application numbers 08/629,509 filed April 9, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,789,711 and No. 09/074,272 filed May 7, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,222,130.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

REMARKS

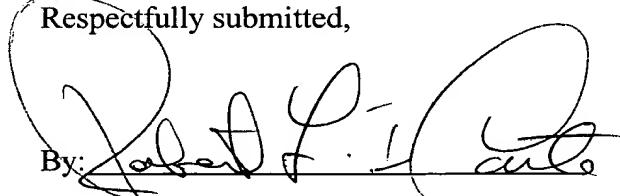
Claims 1, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103a as being unpatentable over Prudhon (5,952,615) in view of Arroyo et al (4,807,962). Applicant is enclosing a 35 U.S.C. 131 declaration swearing in back of the primary Prudhon reference. Therefore, since the primary reference is no longer applicable, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1, 5 and 8 allowed.

An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Date: Dec 18, 2001



Robert F. I. Conte
Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams,
Sweeney & Ohlson
209 S. LaSalle St., Ste. 410
Chicago, IL 60604
Telephone: 312-368-1300
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 20,354